

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

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FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00 XMB-02
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C O N F I D E N T I A L AMMAN 1977

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ECWA, PORG, PFOR, ECIN, PLO, XF
SUBJECT: ECWA FOURTH PLENARY ISSUES

REF: (A) AMMAN 1967, (B) AMMAN 1968

1. IN APRIL 4 CALL ON AMBASSADOR, SECRETARY GENERAL OF ECWA, MOHAMMAD SAID AL ATTAR, REVIEWED PROGRAM FOR ECWA'S FOURTH PLENARY SESSION AND MENTIONED PROBLEMS HE FORSEES. ATTAR SAID THAT TWO "POLITICAL" ISSUES ARE LIKELY TO ARISE. FIRST INVOLVES EGYPT'S, AND INCIDENTALLY PAKISTAN'S, APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP: EGYPT WOULD LIKE TO BECOME FULL MEMBER OF ECWA WITHOUT COMPROMISING ITS STATUS IN COMMISSION FOR AFRICA. PAKISTAN IS ALSO INTERESTED IN OBTAINING ECWA MEMBERSHIP, BUT ISSUE IS NOT LIKELY TO BE RAISED AT FOURTH PLENARY. SECOND POLITICAL ISSUE INVOLVES STATUS OF PLO. PLO HAS REQUESTED STATUS AS FULL MEMBER OF ECWA: PRESENTLY PLO IS THE ONLY "PERMANENT OBSERVER" OF ORGANIZATION. ATTAR INFORMED AMBASSADOR THAT HE HAS ALREADY ADVISED PLO AND ARAB AMBASSADORS IN AMMAN THAT PLO IS ONLY
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PERMANENT OBSERVER AT ECWA, THAT ECWA IS NOW DOING STUDIES OF BENEFIT TO THE PLO, THAT MEMBERSHIP IN ECWA IS NOW COMPOSED SOLELY OF SOVEREIGN STATES (WHICH PLO IS NOT), AND THAT IN ANY CASE, ECWA WOULD ONLY BE ABLE TO MAKE RECOMMENDATION ON THIS QUESTION FOR ACTION BY ECOSOC AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF UN. ATTAR CLEARLY DOES NOT WANT PLENARY TO GET

BOGGED DOWN ON EITHER POLITICAL ISSUE. HE OPINED THAT WITH PRESENT SADAT VISIT TO UNITED STATES AND UPCOMING VISIT OF KING HUSSEIN, USG WOULD ALSO PREFER THAT PLO RELATIONSHIP WITH ECWA NOT BECOME ISSUE AT PLENARY. ATTAR, DID NOT, HOWEVER, REQUEST THAT USG TAKE ANY ACTION REGARDING PLO INTEREST IN ECWA MEMBERSHIP, BUT DID POINT UP HIS OWN ACTIVITIES IN THAT REGARD NOTED ABOVE.

2. REGARDING WORK PROGRAM FOR FOURTH PLENARY, ATTAR EXPLAINED THAT THERE WILL BE THREE MAJOR ISSUES. THESE INCLUDE ATTENTION TO GREAT DISPARITIES OF WEALTH AMONG ECWA MEMBERS, INCREASED COOPERATION BETWEEN ECWA AND SIMILAR MULTINATIONAL BODIES SUCH AS UN ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA, EUROPE, LATIN AMERICA AND THE FAR EAST, AND GREATER COOPERATION AMONG ECWA MEMBERS REGARDING THEIR INDIVIDUAL PROGRAMS FOR NATIONAL ECONOMIC AND INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT. THIS LAST ISSUE WILL BE ADDRESSED IN EFFORT TO AVOID DUPLICATION AND MUTUALLY HARMFUL COMPETITION AND THE INSTITUTION OF PROJECTS FOR WHICH MANPOWER IS NOT AVAILABLE. COPIES OF WORKING DOCUMENTS FOR PLENARY AND BEING POUCHED TO IO. PROVISIONAL AGENDA REMAINS UNCHANGED FROM THAT PREVIOUSLY PROVIDED TO IO.

3. IN ADDITION TO FORMAL WORK PROGRAM, ATTAR TOLD AMBASSADOR THAT THERE ARE TWO ADDITIONAL ITEMS THAT HE WILL PURSUE INFORMALLY IN ROLE
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AS SECRETARY GENERAL OF COMMISSION. PRESENT PERCENTAGE OF ECWA TECHNICAL STAFF DRAWN FROM ECWA MEMBERS IS 56 PERCENT, WHICH ATTAR SAYS IS HIGHEST AMONG UN ECONOMIC COMMISSION AND OTHER SIMILAR ORGANIZATIONS. ATTAR WILL TRY TO PRESERVE THIS RATIO, OR PREFERRABLY, INCREASE IT TO 60 PERCENT WHILE STILL KEEPING DOOR OPEN TO TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PERSONNEL FROM STATES OUTSIDE REGION. SECONDLY, ECWA AND ARAB LEAGUE ACTIVITIES OVERLAP IN SOME ECONOMIC AND DEVELOPMENT AREAS. ATTAR HAS BEEN IN CONTACT WITH ARAB LEAGUE OFFICIALS ON MATTER AND HOPES TO MOVE FURTHER TOWARDS RESOLUTION DURING PLENARY, BUT NOTED THAT IT IS A THORNY ISSUE.
PICKERING

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Message Attributes

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